

For the two reasons shown above, claim 1 cannot be properly anticipated by Suzuki, *et al.*, therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

IX. Conclusion

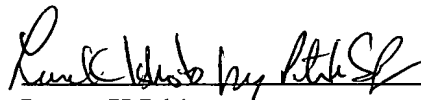
The present document is a full and complete response to the Action. In conclusion, Applicants submit that, in light of the foregoing remarks, the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Landsman have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of one month from March 19, 2002 to April 19, 2002 and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' Representatives' deposit account are included. With this extension the response is due on April 19, 2002. This communication is thus timely filed.

Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fees for filing the extension of time are due in connection with this communication. However, should any additional fees be required for any reason related to this communication, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Lexicon Genetics Incorporated Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

Respectfully submitted,

April 19, 2002
Date


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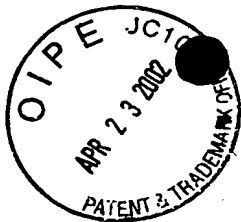


Exhibit A

Marked-up Version of The Pending Claims in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/703,253

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 24 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence first disclosed in the NHP gene described in SEQ ID NO: 23.

- 2.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:
 - (a)encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 24;
 - and
 - (b)hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or the complement thereof.

- 3.(Cancelled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:
 - (a)encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
 - (b)hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

- 4.(Cancelled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:
 - (a)encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 48; and
 - (b)hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47 or the complement thereof.